



# Earth First!

## Action Update

March '96  
No. 25 30p

Hamba Kahle! Mhtembu!

# EVICTIION FRENZY!

## Selar, Daisy Nook, Snelsmore ...

February has seen a wave of evictions at anti-road and opencast camps. Camps at Selar Nature Reserve and Daisy Nook on the route of the M66 have been trashed, with attention now turning to the camps on the route of the Newbury Bypass.

On Wednesday 21st February the Daisy Nook camp at Oldham was evicted. Sixty activists occupied the trees, but were heavily outnumbered by security and police. It took a day for the camp to be cleared: 24 trees, 7 tree houses and a scaffolding tower. Sheriff's Officer Andrew Wilson, who has a reputation for unsafe practises, led the bailiffs and Richard Turner Ltd provided eviction climbers. Police held back another 30 people on the ground. There are plans to set up another 2 camps. 0161 6284727

The climbing team along with Andrew Wilson then moved on to Selar for a bitter eviction, starting on Monday 26th February. 50 activists were outnumbered by 150 security. Bailiffs came in early, cutting walkways with people on them and endangering life. Activists they could not reach were captured by a combination of climbers and cherry pickers. Eventually, after a particularly nasty struggle, the site was cleared on Wednesday. Locals will continue the struggle. At the time of going to press the heavily defended Snelsmore camp on the route of the Newbury Bypass had held out for two days. This marks a new chapter in the Third Battle of Newbury as the state attempts to evict more than 24 camps on the route. The tunnel system at Snelsmore was captured along with several tree houses but bailiffs did not return on Saturday 2nd, allowing the camp to be rebuilt. More people desperately needed to defend these camps - organise transport from your area - contact 01635 45544 to find which are the best times. Some funding may be available.

As well as police and bailiffs, two other factors have allowed these evictions to occur. Large numbers of security guards, hired by Reliance Security and a team of climbers, provided by Richard Turner Ltd. Let them know how you feel: Richard Turner Ltd, 101 Couple Lane, Old Tupton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire. 01246 861738. Reliance Security, Surety House, 78-86 Brigstock Road, Thornton Heath, Croydon, Surrey. CR7 7JA. 0181 6897799.

Here are three personal accounts from people involved in each campaign.



Plucked from the trees at Selar

### Selar

"Nine months after we took the Selar Farm site in the Vale of Neath South Wales, the massed Forces of Darkness desolated 18 acres of mature oak woodland and water meadows. Reliance again supplied the bodies, Walters Plant Hire supplied the mother raping machinery and the Police presided over the injustice.

"The speed of Monday's assault surprised everyone. Selar Farm formed a small part of the 880 acre site and work's not due to start properly until July. It was an SSSI, but no legal means or political petition could prevent it's destruction. Instead the market demands cheap coal and gets it the cheapest way possible: using fuck off machinery to scrape off the trees and vegetation from the countryside and rip the coal out. It's going to be one of the largest holes in Europe - restoration plans include a golf course." - Ian

### Daisy Nook

"One comrade was high in a tree which overhung the road at Lumb Lane. Because he had decided to go up at the last minute, he had no ropes or harnesses. The ground protesters were opposite the police lines in classic pose - working class against the capitalist army. The shitehead with chainsaw started to cut up towards his feet while the constabulary deliberately turned away. We surged forward into the police lines in an anger that we had been feeling all day but had found difficult to give vent to physically... the feeling of solidarity afterwards was great.

"It feels like Spring won't come to Daisy Nook this year. As for the climbers: Scum! Andy Coish, Ian Harrison, Paul Newton, we know where you are. If any readers fancy a quiet chat try the Broadfield pub, Sheffield." - A red squirrel.

### Newbury

"I arrived in Newbury on a Tuesday, having just finished work. I had been to road camps before but had never climbed nor experienced an eviction. A week and a half later I found myself hanging 50 feet up with just a rope between myself and the ground while hundreds of glow-in-the-dark men walked around the trees.

"I was at Snelsmore Common which turned out to be the site of the first attempted eviction. We were woken at 4.30 in the morning and remained skybound for 48 hours as the bailiffs did their best to remove us. The whole experience has been immense. The sense of community is inspirational, crossing all boundaries of age and class. So many people coming together for such a worthwhile cause has lifted me to new heights. "I had seen Newbury on television and it was awakening; I arrived and it was eye-opening; I clung to a tree as men clad in black tried to pull me from my home and it was something only to be felt, never justified by explanation. When chaos reigns around you, it truly becomes clear - we are right, what we are doing is right, and it feels totally liberating." - Jess

### Action Update Has Moved ...

New address: EARTH FIRST! ACTION UPDATE, PO BOX 9656, LONDON. N4 4YJ.  
Tel: 0171 281 4621.  
Email: [actionupdate@gn.apc.org](mailto:actionupdate@gn.apc.org)

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## News In Brief

If you want to find most of the addresses of any company, go to your library, and find volume 2 of the Kompass directory. This lists companies alphabetically and by region.

The DSS Strike against the Job Seekers Allowance is unfortunately over. The Liverpool Dock Strike continues. Merseyside Port Shop Stewards Committee, c/o TGWU, Transport House, Islington, Liverpool. Tel: 0151 207 3388.

A Squatters Estate Agency opened in Brighton on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February providing lists of empty properties and the low down on the law. 01273 685913 for info. Also Squatlink an international email list, to link squatting groups, has been setup - to get your group on the list send an email address to 'pepe@iww.org'.

Permaculture designers, people familiar with Agenda 21, people good at organising, are needed to help plan land squats in inner city areas. Details from: Earth Village Network, 6 Edinburgh Crescent, Leamington Spa, CV31 3LL.

The Shark Protection League campaigns to halt destruction of the marine environment. Contact: BM L.A.P.L., London, WC1N 3XX. 0589 173033.

Undercurrents are looking for video footage. Send video footage/correspondence to: Ted Oakes, 16 B Cherwell St, Oxford OX4 1BG. 01865 203 662. e-mail: train@gn.apc.org

The spring edition of Squall 12 - the magazine for sorted itinerants - is now out. Send £2.20 (inc. p&p) to PO Box 8959, London, N12 5HW. Bulk enquires are welcome 0171 561 1204.

The Wolverhampton Party Posse, raised another £800 for the Newbury By-pass campaign.

Hinckley Point, a nuclear power station in Somerset is now burning radioactive waste from North Wales and developing the capacity to burn waste from all over the UK and abroad.

Bob from South Somerset EF! received 100 hours community service for his involvement in the campaign against the Wells Relief Road. He fully informed the Judge of his opinions on the law!

CS Gas is coming to a street near you. The cops are testing it in several areas with a view to introducing it universally. It was used at Park Lane during the battle of Hyde Park in October 94 - it hurts! Cycle masks and swimming goggles are in, kids ... sucking a lemon is also meant to counteract some of the effects. CS gas can cause blindness and respiratory problems - the cops reply is that it is less dangerous than their new (lethal) batons.

Construction of 300 commuter houses on Brewery Fields, Eithinog, Bangor is imminent. This will be resisted by direct action and has good local support. Gwynedd EF! 01248 600286.

EYFA (European Youth Forest Action) are holding a seminar on "alternative economics and local initiatives" in Colchester between 18th-22nd March. 0131 557 6997

Pulp Faction is a newsletter by campaigners against the Newbury Bypass - contact via Third Battle of Newbury office. Contributions needed.

McSpotlight is an internet site compiled by volunteers in 14 countries and providing information on every aspect of McDonalds activities. <http://www.McSpotlight.org/>

## The Land is Ours

There will be a major occupation of urban land on Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> - somewhere in SE England. It will be suitable for transformation into a sustainable community. Anyone who has found it difficult or impossible to find a permanent home is particularly invited. The site will not be revealed until the day - but will be a derelict industrial site with 'green possibilities.' 01865 722016.

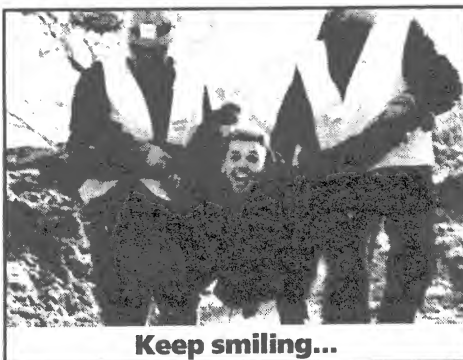
## Earth First! Get Together

An Earth First! Get Together is planned in Newbury over March 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>. This will include: an introduction to EF!; practical skills training; tree climbing workshops; discussion on developing the movement. We'll be camping somewhere on the route of the by-pass. On the Sunday we'll be discussing plans for the Summer Gathering and an EF! marquee at the Big Green Gathering. Actions planned for the Monday. Contact Dave Hill 01249 650078 or 01635 45544 for further details - all welcome, bring food, camping gear, entertainment and any tools / equipment.

## Residents Against The M74

"Charley Gordon - you've got our lungs, now take our hearts." So cried 15 women residents against the M74 - proposed 10 lane motorway in Glasgow. "Charley Babe" is the Scottish roads and Transport Minister and on February 14<sup>th</sup>, during an office occupation, he was serenaded with Robson and Jerome songs! Campaigners are currently giving presentations around the community, building their support.

The community is also setting up a 'Jock about army rebellion' - a tartan clad posse getting out to other anti road actions, building links between campaigners in the North and South. Funky actions against the M74 are set for April. 0141 424 1797. 0141 423 0278.



Keep smiling...

## Whatley Expansion Still On

Despite massive opposition, the proposed expansion of Whatley Quarry in Somerset is still set to go ahead. Work could start in 12 months time, but Mendip District Council have set aside £50,000 for a possible Judicial Review. Court cases against over 50 protesters still pending.

## Holtfield Relieved!

Celebrations are underway in the small community of low impact homes in Holtfield, near Swansea. A family's appeal to the House of Lords will take about a year, and in the meantime no other cases will be heard. This means at least a year has been gained before further action is taken. As the appeal costs £50,000 energy is being put into fund-raising. People are NOT needed down there. If you want to support them - raise money! 01792 234027.



Selar's people prepare for their last stand

## The Trial of the Motorcar

On Sat 9<sup>th</sup> March, at midday, York EF! and the New Luddites will be putting the motor car on trial at Cliffords Tower, York. This is where the first fourteen Luddites were hung for the crime of machine breaking in 1812. People are needed to testify for and against the motorcar and be part of a mass jury to decide the machines fate. For more info on the Luddites contact York LEAF. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Reclaim the Land spring eco-picnic on a piece of woodland outside York. The land is under threat of development. There will be a pedal powered sound system, food, a litter pick, storytelling and fun. Meet midday at Fulford Cemetery, Fordland Rd. Accommodation available. 01904 415755.

## A30 Action

Protesters are currently developing the two coppice camps, the hillfort on route and extending the tunnel systems, for this road campaign near Exeter. The private consortium intending to build the road are stalling as they are trying to work out a better deal. The present deal gives the government a bill for the use of the road after 25 years. Work is also being halted by badgers who are shagging. They cannot be moved, or legally moved - How would you like it! Further info: 01404 815 729.

## What a Load of Bankers!

The Lloyds and Midland Boycott Campaign held a national day of action on Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>. Highlighting the debt crisis and involvement in the arms trade, LAMB groups around the country occupied banks and held 'bankathons'. 0161 274 4665. Other third world debt info is available from: 'Third World First Network Update', 217 Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4 1XG. Tel: 01865 245 678.

## Thanet Way

There's not much construction work going on at this road site due to bad weather, but contractors are pressing on with the £4 million pounds tunnel

## How to Contact Earth First! Action Update

By phone: 0171 281 4621; By post: Action Update, PO Box 9656, London N4 4YJ; or finally by email to 'actionupdate@gn.apc.org'. Note that the contact address has changed. For replies please enclose a SAE. To subscribe to the free e-mail server send us your details. Please send a donation or stamps if you can afford it (we rely on getting at least £100 a month in donations to be able to send free subscriptions to community groups etc).



# OUT OF YOUR TREE?



Come to

# NEWBURY

## Britain's Ecological Frontline

Use this poster to publicise transport/events

**Direct Action Rota: 01635 45544**

Produced by Earth First! Action Update and SQUALL.

# EARTH FIRST! CONTACTS MARCH '96

A30 Action  
PO BOX 6  
Ottery St Mary  
Devon. EX11 1YL  
01404 815729  
Mobile 0385 278156/7

An Talamh Glas  
c/o Anne  
Abbey Street  
Ballinrobe  
Co Mayo  
Eire

Avon Gorge EFi  
Box 51  
Greenleaf Bookshop  
82 Colston Street  
Bristol BS1 5BB  
01225 448556  
01225 314040

Belfast EFi  
c/o 3-5 Denegal Lane  
Denegal St  
Belfast

Birmingham EFi  
c/o 115 Alcester Rd  
Moseley  
Birmingham B13  
0121 4495452

Caledonian Green Circle  
67 Burghhead Drive  
Linthouse  
Govan, Glasgow.

Cambourne EFi  
c/o Weaveur-En  
13 Roskear Fields  
Cambourne  
Cornwall. TR14 8DA  
01209 710548

Cambridge EFi  
Box E  
12 Mill Road  
Cambridge.  
01223 69347  
tgs1001@hermes.cam.ac.uk

Cardiff EFi  
PO Box 7  
Cardiff, CF2 4XX

Cardigan Bay EFi  
c/o Box E  
Oakridge  
Tallesin  
Machynlleth  
Powys. SY20 8JW  
rck3@aberystwyth.ac.uk

Cheltenham Eco-Network  
c/o The Basement  
1 Portland Square  
Cheltenham  
Glos. GL52 2HT

Chichester EFi  
c/o Chichester Hunt Sabs  
PO Box 99  
Chichester  
W.Sussex PO19 4GL  
01243 771640/533850

Cisbury Ring EFi  
c/o Prior House  
6 Tilbury Place  
Brighton BN2 2GY

Connemara Talamh Glas  
Turlach  
Rosmuc  
Co Galway, Eire  
00 353 (1) 91 574029

Dart Valley EFi  
c/o SWAN  
PO Box 4  
Buckfastleigh  
Devon TQ11 0YZ

Doncaster EFi  
c/o 54 Wellgate  
Conisbrough. DN12 3HN  
01302 882471

Fastlane Peace Camp  
Shandon  
Helensburgh  
Dunbartonshire  
Scotland. G84 8HT  
01436 820901

Felixstowe EFi  
'Merrow'  
Felixstowe Ferry  
Suffolk IP11 9RZ  
01473 274153

Glasgow EFi  
PO Box 180,  
Glasgow, G4 9AB.  
0141 226 5066

Gwynedd EFi  
c/o 8 Victoria Place  
Bethesda  
Gwynedd LL57 3AG  
01248 600286

Hillfort EFi  
9 Hardens Close  
Chippenham  
Wiltshire SN15 3AA  
01249 650078

LEAF  
Box Z,  
13, Biddulph St  
Leicester LE2 1BH  
0116 255 3223  
Fax: as phone

Leeds EFi  
16 Sholebrock Ave  
Chapelton  
Leeds LS7 3HB  
0113 262 9365  
cornerstone@gn.apc.org

Lune EFi  
c/o 78a Penny St,  
Lancaster. LA1 1XN  
01524 383163

Manchester EFi  
Dept 29, 1 Newton St  
Manchester M1 1HW  
0161 274 4865  
coniberr@cs.man.ac.uk

Merseyside EFi  
PO Box 187  
160 Mount Pleasant  
Liverpool L69 7BR  
0151 794 4167

Mid-Somerset EFi  
PO Box 23  
5 High St  
Glastonbury  
Somerset BA6 9PU  
01458 831545

Newcastle EFi  
4, The Cloth Market  
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne  
NE1 1EA  
0191 273 4997

No M11 Link  
Wanstead Environment  
Centre  
1A High Street  
Wanstead  
London. E11  
Info: 0181 5322811  
Actions: 0181 5188222

No M66  
14 Eaton Ave.  
Oldham. OL8 4HR  
0161 628 4727

Norwich EFi  
The GreenHouse  
48 Bethel St  
Norwich, Norfolk  
01603 631007  
Fax: 01603 666879  
nen@gn.apc.org

Notts EFi  
Box EFi  
180 Mansfield Rd  
Nottingham  
0115 958 5666

Oxford EFi  
Box E  
111 Magdalen Rd  
Oxford, OX4 1RQ  
01865 721898

Rainbow Centre  
The Old Church  
23 Highgate Road  
Kentish Town  
London NW5  
0171 267 0628

Reading EFi  
Box 56  
Rising Sun Institute  
30 Silver St  
Reading RG1 2ST

Reclaim the Streets  
PO BOX 9656  
London N4 4YJ  
0171 281 4621  
rts@gn.apc.org

Sedgemoor EFi  
8 Isle Port Road  
Highbridge  
Somerset TA9 4QX  
01278 787148

Sheffield EFi  
c/o. Shefin  
201 Crookes Valley Rd  
Sheffield S10 1BA  
0114 2671200  
bjgoss@pine.shu.ac.uk

Solsbury Hill Action Group  
c/o 103 Ringswell Gdns  
Bath, Avon. BA1 6BW  
01225 448556

South Downs EFi  
c/o Prior House  
6 Tilbury Place  
Brighton BN2 2GY

South Somerset EFi  
31 Hamdon Close  
Stoke-Sub-Hamdon  
Somerset TA 14 6QN  
01935 825074

Staffs Earth Action Net.  
c/o Stoke-On-Trent College  
S.U.  
Howard Place  
Stoke Road  
Shelton  
Stoke-On-Trent. ST1 4LY  
01782 603656  
Fax: 01782 260818

Swansea Freedom  
Collective  
PO BOX 235  
Mumbles  
Swansea SA3 4YY  
sa3thomp@swansea.ac.uk

The Flat Oak Society  
c/o 3 St Alphege Lane  
Canterbury  
Kent. CT1 2EB  
01227 463368  
Mobile 0973 262259

Third Battle of Newbury  
PO BOX 5520  
Newbury. RG14 7YW  
01635 45544  
Fax: 01635 45545

Upper Nene EFi  
Box E,  
24 St. Michaels Avenue,  
Northampton NN1

Wolves EFi  
c/o Wolves Hunt Sabs  
Box H  
Wolves University Students  
Union  
Wulfruna St  
Wolverhampton

York EFi  
c/o York LEAF,  
Uni of York Union,  
Heslington,  
York YO1 5DD  
01904 634073  
socs203@york.ac.uk

## SUPPORT GROUPS

Corporate Watch  
Box CW  
111 Magdalen Road  
Oxford. OX4 1RQ  
01865 245016

Dead Trees EFi  
Box 25, 82 Colston St,  
Bristol, BS1 5BB

Do or Die  
c/o South Downs EFi

DELTA  
East Oxford Community  
Centre  
Princes St  
Oxford. OX4 1DD  
01865 791391

Direct Action Direct  
c/o Chichester EFi  
PO BOX 99  
Chichester  
W.Sussex. PO19 4GL

Earth First! Action Update  
PO Box 9656  
London N4 4YJ.  
0171 281 4621  
ActionUpdate@gn.apc.org

Earth Liberation  
Prisoners  
c/o Mid-Somerset EFi  
P.M.Blackmore@ncl.ac.uk

Road Alert!  
PO Box 5544  
Newbury  
Berkshire RG14 5FB  
roadalert@gn.apc.org

Toxic Alert!  
Dept 96  
1 Newton St  
Manchester M1 1HW

## INTERNATIONAL

Earth First! Journal  
POB 1415  
Eugene OR 97440  
USA  
0015037419191  
earthfirst@igc.apc.org

Australia EFi  
Canopy  
POB 1738Q GPO  
Melbourne 3001  
Victoria. Australia  
(0061) 3 3547972

Vancouver EFi  
1472 Commercial  
Box 176  
Vancouver  
BC V5L 3X9  
Canada  
(001) 604 4730174

EFi France  
BP 631  
53006 Laval Cedex  
France

Germany EFi  
c/o Avalon  
Friedrich-Ebert-Str. 24  
45127 Essen  
Germany

Anand Skiria  
PB#14  
Cochran 682001  
Kerala  
India  
(0091) 484 25435

Volunteers for Earth  
Defence  
189 San Antonio Ext.SFDM  
1105 Quezon City  
Philippines

Workshop for all Beings  
ul.Modrzewskiego 29/3  
43-300 Bielsko Biala  
Poland  
Fax: (0048) 30 29496

Rainbow Keepers  
POB 14  
Nizhny Novgorod 603082  
Russia  
(007) 8312 343280  
tretypu@glas.apc.org

Slovakia EFi  
A.Hinku 11  
96001 Zvolen  
Slovakia

Manuel A.Demandes  
Taller de E.A.A CURUXA  
J.B.Xelmirer J  
Campus Universitario  
1570 S Santiago  
Spain  
(0034) 81 584321

Morgan Larsson  
Lagmansgaten 9C  
46 37 Vanersborg  
Sweden

Rainbow Keepers  
c/o Nadia Shevchenko  
Glushkova 17-22  
Kiev.252187  
Ukraine  
(007) 044 2669310  
nadia@glas.apc.org

## OTHER CONTACTS

Anarchist Black Cross  
c/o 121 Ralliton Rd  
London. SE24 0LR

Consious Cinema  
PO BOX 2679  
Brighton. BN2 2EF  
01273 679544

Contraflow  
56A Info Shop  
56 Crampton St  
London. SE17  
Fax: 0171 326 0353  
contraflow@phreak.  
intermedia.co.uk

Counter Information  
c/o Transmission  
28 King St  
Glasgow. G1 5QP

The Ecologist  
Agriculture House  
Bath Road  
Sturminster Newton  
Dorset. DT10 1DU  
01258 73476  
ecologist@gn.apc.org

Freedom Network  
PO BOX 9384  
London. SW9 7ZB  
0171 582 3474  
Actions: 0171 793 7343

Green Anarchist Network  
BCM 1715  
London. WC1N 3XX

Hunt Saboteurs  
PO BOX 1  
Nottingham. NG4 2JY  
01159 580357

Justice?  
PO Box 2600  
Brighton  
E. Sussex BN2 2DX  
01273 685913  
justice@intermedia.co.uk

Legal Defence & Monitoring  
Group  
BM BOX Haven  
London. SW1X 3NN  
0181 802 9804

London Greenpeace  
5 Caledonian Rd  
Kings Cross  
London N1 9DX  
0171 837 7557

Menwith Womens Peace  
Camp  
A59 Lay-By  
Nr. Menwith Hill Spybase  
Nr. Harrogate  
N.Yorks  
01943 468593

Squall  
PO BOX 8959  
London. N12 5HW  
0171 561 1204  
Fax: 0171 272 9243  
squall@phreak.  
intermedia.co.uk

The Land is Ours  
Box E  
111 Magdalen Road  
Oxford OX4 1RQ  
01865 722016

Undercurrents  
16b Cherwell St  
Oxford. OX4 1BJ  
01865 203661  
Fax: 01865 243562  
underc@gn.apc.org

Earth First! is a network of independent groups who believe in doing just that-putting the earth first. It is based on a concept of non-hierarchical organisation, direct action, and the empowerment of individuals to confront the ecological catastrophe facing our planet. The above contacts are groups in this network or groups with a common aim. Let Earth First! Action Update know of any alterations/additions/removals from the list. Alterations from last months are shown in bold and underlined groups may no longer exist. Telephone numbers given for international contacts include UK dialling codes. Please note that the international contacts given are not "in charge" of each country's actions but simply represent a way in to their direct action network.



that goes under a golf course and over woods. Activists in Kent have locked themselves onto GS Coaches, transporting security to Newbury. This stopped them for several hours. Contact: 01227 463368 about further actions in Kent.

## EFI Summer Gathering

Plans for the Earth First Summer Gathering from June 12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> are going well. Various offers of help have been made, including: marquees, benders, a cafe, sweat lodges, toilets, workshops on direct action tactics and struggles in other countries, as well as offers from healers & permaculture designers. A site hasn't yet been confirmed. This will be done by the end of March. Money is desperately needed. The gathering will cost at least a thousand pounds to put together. We presently have zero pounds. Speakers from indigenous tribes can't afford all the travelling, and advertising costs. If £50 isn't much to you, **We Need Your Cash!** Please send any money, payable to "Earth First!" at EFI Gathering, PO Box 7, Cardiff. CF2 4XX. Any offers of help are still needed. Please, get in touch. Planning meeting 24th March, Newbury.

## Hawks Get Hammered

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, three women were arrested at the British Aerospace Military site in Warton, Lancashire. They disarmed a Hawk aeroplane with household hammers, causing £13 million worth of damage. The Ploughshares group aim to disarm Hawk aircraft destined for Indonesia - to be used for genocide against the people of East Timor. This was the 56<sup>th</sup> Ploughshares Action world wide and the third in Britain. Activists take full responsibility for their non-violent actions of disarmament allowing themselves to be arrested. Charged with illegal entry and criminal damage, the women are on remand for four weeks at Risley Prison, Warrington. The trial commences on March 7<sup>th</sup> at Lytham Magistrates Court. Contact 01582 36038. Accountable action in the environmental movement will be discussed at the 'East Timor Ploughshares Movement' Introduction Day, Oxford, March 23rd: 0171 923 9511. 'Stop The Hawks' have a week of action against the supply of arms to Indonesia from March 25<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>. There will be demos at BAe military sites; a 24 hour vigil outside the Foreign Office, peace camps, films and talks. 0171 561 1236.

## Time to Get Serious

It's true that actions speak louder than words, but people involved in action still need to communicate, between themselves and to those wishing to get involved. Although we have considerable public support there are still only tens of people on most actions. People want to get involved but they don't know how to, or don't feel able to. Why is this?

Most Earth First! type groups only consist of a few people who are generally friends and share the same culture. This is important and one of our main strengths. However, if we are to win campaigns and bring about lasting change, we need to be able to involve more people in each group.

There are two main factors stopping our growth. We are very bad at communicating and we are also often down right rude. People new to the movement often have a vision of us as gentle eco-warriors, fighting against the dark forces of capitalism, and greed. In reality we're just as fucked up as the rest of society, suffering from many of the same social ills. Placed in high stress environments, seeing the destruction of land to which we have become bonded, it's no wonder we don't have a lot of time to consider others. One of the main complaints we receive at the



**Annesley Tree Protectors**

## Annesley Relief Road

Clearance work for this road, near Nottingham has finished despite the effort of locals and EF!ers turning out in large numbers. There was one arrest for aggravated trespass.

The plans for the road aren't clear but the clearing made is big enough for a motorway. Work expected to start by May. Help needed with actions: 01623 751974, 01623 756426.

## Direct Action Direct!

Direct Action Direct! is a new publication, providing information on all ecological and animal liberation direct action. It will also act as a forum for debate. Send news or articles for inclusion to: Direct Action Direct!, c/o Chichester EF!, PO Box 99, Chichester, W.Sussex. PO19 4GL.

## Faslane Peace Camp

Faslane Peace Camp, 30 miles from Glasgow has been actively protesting against nuclear weapons for the last 13 years. From April they'll be under threat of eviction by a new Council who have made it clear they want to close the camp. People living on the site are asking for help from ex-residents who have energy to protect this symbol of peace. Actions are planned to remember Chernobyl from April 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>. Actions on the 14th anniversary of the camp are planned for the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June. 01436 820 901

Action Update is about guilt tripping. People who can only stay at a camp for the weekend, or do not want to risk arrest on their first action, are not going to get more involved if all they receive are snide comments. What is worse is that most of the people who make such comments were in exactly the same position only six months earlier. To get new people involved we need to diversify, listen to each other and organise. Support and legal backup for people who are risking their liberty is still lacking in many cases. At the very least we should be able to raise funds, offering to pay peoples fines. If we don't organise as a movement it doesn't matter how much public support we've got. We'll still get crushed and go the way of so many other groups in the past that have taken on the state. Either we get ourselves together or sit back and wait for the industrialised, capitalist world to drown in it's own shit, probably taking us with it.

Feelings such as passion, creativity and anger are a gift. They are our greatest asset. Don't let them turn to frustration and bickering.

**This issue is dedicated to the women who smashed up a £13 million Hawk Jet Fighter at a British Aerospace factory, with household hammers. Respect.**

Pob Lwc RTS, hwyll - The AU editorial collective.

# DIARY DATES

## Daily

Actions all the time against the construction of the Newbury Bypass. 01635 45544

## Weekly

Thursdays 8.30pm BBC2 'Top Gear' with Jeremy Clarkson (100% Man) - know your enemy!

## March

9 Sat: Trial of the Motor Car in York. 01904 634073

10 Sun: Reclaim the Land Spring Eco Picnic, York 01904 415755

16 - 17: Green Student Network Gathering, Cambridge. Contact Hamish 01223 336176.

16 Sat: ALARM UK Conference. Nottingham. 0181 983 3572.

18 - 22: EYFA seminar on alternative economics and local initiatives, Colchester. 0131 5576997.

22 - 24: Earth First! Get Together in Newbury. Contact David: 01249 650078, 01635 45544

23: 'If I had a Hammer', Introduction to East Timor Ploughshares Movement, Oxford. 0171 923 9511

25 - 31: Stop The Hawks - No Arms to Indonesia week of action 0171 561 1236.

27 - 28: 'Hawks off East Timor' Non stop vigil and demos outside the Foreign Office. 0171 275 9150

29 - 31: Peace camp at Warton BAe factory (nr. Manchester) 0161 834 0295

29 - 31: Sellafield Womens Peace Camp. 01706 371387

30 Sat: Close Down Campsfield. Meet at the Gates at Noon. Kidlington, Oxfordshire. 01865 724452

30 Sat: International Day of Anti Roads Action. ASEED - 0031 206 682236.

## April

1-7: International Earth Nights. The Earth Liberation Fairie's annual April Fools Day 'Bash' - of eco-nasties.

12 - 26: Walk for a nuclear free future, from Kiev to Chernobyl. +32 9233 4924

19 - 21: 'Women Speak Out Against the Military Chain' 10th Anniversary of Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster, Sellafield Women's Peace Camp 01706 371387.

20: National Demo Against the Asylum Bill. Assemble 11am. Embankment London SW1. 0171 247 9907.

22-26: Faslane Peace Camp. Chernobyl Remembrance Actions. 01436 820901

27 Sat: Cardiff - 2 years of CJA resistance / Anti Cardiff Bay Barrage Action.

27 Sat: Close Down Campsfield. Meet at the Gates at Noon. Kidlington, Oxfordshire. 01865 724452

29 Mon: Trial of Garforth Opencast protesters. 0113 262 9365.

## May

4 Sat: British Aerospace AGM 0161 834 0295

5 Sun: Land Is Ours - urban land occupation, S E England 01865 722016

10 - 12: Big Beltane Celebrations plus actions / workshops at Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp. 01222 396563.

18 Sat: Devonshire Green Festival. 0114 2534548.

20 - 30: Actions & workshops - 2nd anniversary of women's peace camp at Menwith Hill US spy base. 01943 468593

## June

12 - 18: Earth First! Summer Gathering - details to be announced

15 -16: Faslane Peace Camp 14th Anniversary Actions. 01436 820901

## July

24-28: Big Green Gathering, Wiltshire. 01722 412457

Help! We might have lost your subscription! If you subscribed to Action Update in November/December but have not yet received your copy, please contact us again.

## Kings X Women's Centre

Volunteers at Kings Cross Womens Centre have provided free advice & support to thousands of women (and men) since 1975. MP Ken Livingstone gave women the premises in 1979 at a rent of £2 per week. In December 1993 without consulting the centre, Camden Council sold it to the 'Community Housing Association' (CHA) for £14,000. Less than a year later CHA demanded £6,000 rent per year. The centre was unable to pay, so CHA responded with eviction proceedings. CHA are part of a consortium to develop Kings Cross for The Channel Tunnel Link and aim to 'clean up' the area for business. Help save the centre from eviction. On March 1<sup>st</sup> the centre lost its appeal against the CHA. A phone tree is being set up for forthcoming actions. Support the centre. 0171 837 7509.

## 10 Years Since Chernobyl

To mark the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, Sellafeld Women's Peace Camp plans a weekend of events from April 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>. To register phone 01706 371387.

A walk for a Nuclear Free Future starting from Kiev will end at the 30km zone near Chernobyl on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Actions are also planned. Contact: For Mother Earth, Gewad 15,B-9000 Gent, Belgium. Tel +32 9233 4924

And still, nuclear accidents continue ... On January 31<sup>st</sup> 1996, a tonne of radioactive steam was released at an experimental fast - breeder reactor in Dimitrovgrad, Russia.

## Green @ Raided ... Again!

On 16<sup>th</sup> January, police simultaneously broke down doors across the UK, charging four alleged editors of Green Anarchist, ALF Supporters Group editor Simon Russell, and ALF press officer Robin Webb with "conspiracy to incite criminal damage by publication". Despite this Green Anarchist issue 40/41 should be available about now from BCM 1715, London WC1N 3XX.

## Ashton Court Action

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, 50 people gathered for an action at Durnford Quarry, Ashton Court, Bristol. Pioneer Aggregates, the owners of the Quarry feared a re-run of December's Whatley Quarry festivities. £10's of thousands were spent on new security fencing around the site. A hundred cops and private security were present preventing mass invasion. There were two arrests, but no charges. Little work could be done. A decision on the expansion of the quarry will be made soon.



Reclaim the Streets of Brighton

## Reclaim the Streets

Brighton, Feb 14<sup>th</sup>; for almost 4 hrs, North St was reclaimed from the car. In true valentine's style, pollution and aggression were replaced by community and luvve. Sussex pigs were left flat footed as hundreds occupied the road. Then the party started. People played, drummed, danced and boinged on a bouncy castle. As people were dispersing, the forces of the state moved in to reestablish their law and order. Despite loads of violence, the pigs found it hard to 'clear' the street in the face of people's resistance. 43 arrests were made to reassert car and capital's dominance. All but 10 charges were dropped. By going in so heavy 'liberal Sussex police' showed intolerance of people acting outside their control and threw down a gauntlet for the future. See ya soon boys in blue.

## Legalise Hemp

CHIC (Cannabis Hemp Information Club) is pushing for the legalisation of cannabis. Through information and education they're exposing the hypocrisy of the prohibition. Hemp is one of the most useful plants on the planet. Its many eco-friendly uses include fuel, medicine, paper and food. When it's this good, why is it illegal? Money! The present multinational companies are out to lose money if cannabis is legalised. Find out more: CHIC, BM Box 6339, London WC1 N3XX.

## Trans European Action

Trans European Networks - TENS - are the name for the European transport program. It threatens to become a social and environmental nightmare with potentially 140 new road schemes. The EU's decision on them is being made soon. Action now may delay them for several years. On March 30<sup>th</sup>, an international day of action is planned. ASEED, PO Box 92066, 1090 AB Amsterdam, Netherlands. Tel.+ 31 20 6682236 for more info.

## Cascadia Rising!

Actions to stop the logging of old growth forest in the Cascade Mountains, north west USA continue. An injunction preventing the logging has been lifted. The Forestry Service placed a locked gate across the access road to prevent environmentalists from entering the area. Activists used the gate as a fullscale barricade with reinforced lock-on points as well as stockades, concrete drums and trenches. The Cascadia Free State was born! Holding the blockade for a record 5 months, and still growing. 100's have been arrested during tree-sits, lock-ons and rallies. Cascadia Forest Defenders, PO Box 11122, Eugene, OR 97440. USA.

## Window Bricking Good!

102 farmers were arrested after the trashing of a Kentucky Fried Chicken store on January 30<sup>th</sup>, in Bangalore, India. The store was trashed to protest against the opening of the fast food chain. The farmers are concerned that multinational corporations will deplete the country's livestock - affecting agriculture, the environment, and health. Professor Nanjundaswamy of the Kamataka State Farmers Association has been released but 101 farmers are still in police custody. They also oppose other multinationals like Curgell Seeds, Pepsi, and McDonalds.

## Shell in Nigeria

19 people are currently facing the same charges as Ken Saro Wiwa. If found guilty they also face execution. Ten of these people are seriously ill and have been refused hospital treatment. Anti Shell actions continue. In Oxford, Shell's Management training session was sabbed and the building occupied. Shell's AGM is on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Info: 01865 791391

## Squat the Asylum Bill

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, all benefits were cut off to large numbers of asylum seekers and refugees. The Old Courthouse in Hackney was squatted as an Autonomous Refugee Centre, to house those made homeless by these new regulations. Since then it's been evicted but they expect to have a new building soon. Its hoped that similar projects can be sorted elsewhere.

Links with refugee & community groups need to be strengthened. Other forms of practical support needed include: the defence of refugee's homes threatened with attack; legal and illegal support; advice and organising to cover for services denied to asylum seekers. Contact via SQUASH: 0171 226 8938.

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